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Bobby Baker Linked To Backers of Bosch

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By DAVID KRASLOW

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—The Central Intelligence Agency reported last March that former Senate majority secretary Bobby Baker may have been working with financial backers of Juan Bosch, former president of the Dominican Republic. This was learned

Thursday from secret testimony taken by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last July during its investigation of U. S. intervention in the Dominican rebellion.

Testimony of CIA Director William F. Raborn, Undersecretary of State Thomas Mann and other high Administration officials still is classified as "secret."

U. S. INVOLVEMENT

The testimony covered a wide range of U. S. military, diplomatic, intelligence and economic involvement in the Dominican Republic before and after a coup was launched on April 24 against the regime of Donald Reid Cabral.

Baker's name was brought into the hearings by Sen. Bourke Hickenlooper (R., Iowa).

Hickenlooper asked Mann if he had any knowledge that Baker was "working in collaboration" with Diego Bordas and Jose Benitez, both friends of Baker and reportedly financial backers of Bosch.

BLOODLESS COUP

"This information, I think," Mann said, "is included in a CIA report dated the 18th of March, 1963 . . . I have no knowledge except what is contained in this report."

Bosch, deposed in a bloodless coup in 1963, was in exile in Puerto Rico at the time of the CIA report. The coup against Reid Cabral was launched in Bosch's name.

Bosch has since returned to the Dominican Republic and is

expected to again seek the presidency when elections are scheduled.

It was clear from the testimony that the Johnson Administration opposed the rebels fighting under the Bosch banner and the return of Bosch to power because of fear that a rebel victory could result in "another Cuba."

NOT A COMMUNIST

Mann testified that Bosch himself was not a Communist. But he said the United States had learned Bosch had secretly made a "political alliance of convenience" with three Dominican Communist parties — one oriented to Havana, another to Moscow and a third to Peking.

" . . . I think we ought to give Bosch credit for thinking that he could use these three Communist parties and control them," Mann said. "The gut issue is whether having entered into this kind of an alliance they controlled Bosch or Bosch controlled them."

RED IN CABINET

In other testimony disclosed Thursday, Brig. Gen. Elias Wessin y Wessin, former Dominican military leader, said one Communist holds a cabinet post in that country and that others along with Communist-supported rebels are in key government jobs.

And, Wessin said, Bosch "wanted to turn over the country to the Communists," and allowed 40 Communist indoctrination centers to operate. Bosch himself taught in one, he testified.